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Check Your Corn Storage Now X

Many farmers face the threat of a shortage of corn storage this fall—unless they do something about it now.

Total supplies of wheat and corn, carryover plus the new crops, are expected to reach record levels—around five and one-half billion bushels.

The wheat can probably be handled—if farmers take positive steps to increase their storage to hold as much as possible on farms. All available commercial space will have to be used efficiently, and some wheat may have to go into emergency facilities in producing areas. It will be a tight squeeze, and some wheat will go into storage space that could otherwise be used for corn.

The real problem will be with corn—finding storage room for big supplies this year. The carryover of old corn is expected to be about 800 million bushels. If yields are average on the acres farmers intended to plant, 1953 production will top 3 billion bushels.

That means the total corn supply, for which storage will be needed, will be near 4 billion

bushels—or close to the all-time record. The most serious problem will center in the heart of the Corn Belt.

Farmers, who have the biggest stake in adequate storage, are fortunately in the best position to do something about it. *More on-farm storage is the basic need.* Most corn is fed to livestock on or near the farm where it is produced, and that is the best place to store it.

It's good business to have enough farm storage. This is especially true in years of big supply—like 1953. Without adequate storage, corn farmers will be at a disadvantage. With enough storage, they will be in position to:

1. Stabilize their marketing, avoid forced sales at harvest time when prices may be down.
2. Keep their corn in best position for efficient feeding operations.
3. Take full advantage of the price-support loan and purchase agreement program.
4. Reseal 1952 crop loan corn.

There is still time to buy or build needed facilities, if farmers make plans now. And they can get financial help, either through the usual credit agencies or from the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Here are some important considerations as you study your on-farm storage needs:

You can buy or build satisfactory bins at costs ranging from about 35 to 50 cents per bushel of capacity. (Less costly temporary structures

are adequate for ear corn to be fed during the year.) The cost would of course be increased for storage structures with ventilating or drying equipment.

Resealing 1952-crop corn under the Government program will earn you a 13-cent storage payment when the corn is delivered to CCC next year. Shelling and storing this corn will open up your cribs for the new crop.

The increase in prices for grain crops stored and sold later in the year, as contrasted with sales at harvest time, often runs as much as 25 to 50 cents a bushel.

Farmers often find that on-farm storage bins pay for themselves in two or three years—and the bins remain on the farm for future use.

You can borrow from CCC up to 80 percent of the cost of the structures, with 4 years to pay and at 4 percent interest. Consult your banker or local PMA office.

County agricultural agents can help with plans and information about the most practicable farm storage in different States and areas, and for different needs. They and local farmer committeemen can furnish information about resealing, facility loans, and other Government program aids.

Act now—to save all your corn and to protect the value of your crop. Make sure that you have enough storage for all your corn.

